

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 15, 2003 (Paper No. 10). Claims 2, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18, and 20 to 22 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 3 to 7, 10, 12 to 16 and 19 have been amended, and Claims 23 and 24 have been newly added herein. Claims 1, 3 to 7, 10, 12 to 16, 19, 23 and 24 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 10 and 19 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 16 and 19 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,289 (Sakamoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,443 (Amro); Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sakamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,326,978 (Robbins); and Claims 5, 9, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sakamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,287 (Ruberry). As noted above, Claims 2, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18 and 20 to 22 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of their rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns an information processing apparatus in which information is displayed in a display region, where the display region has an adjustable orientation, and where the information displayed in the display region has an orientation controllable to correspond to the orientation of the display region. Directional information is input using a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and a display

orientation of the display region is designated. A management table is stored, where the management table stores control signals, and where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the scrolling of information displayed in the display region is controlled by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to the input directional information and the designated display orientation. In another aspect, the focusing operation to a plurality of focusing targets displayed in the region is controlled by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to the input directional information and the designated display orientation.

Referring specifically to claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes display means for displaying information in a display region, where the display region has an adjustable orientation, and where the information displayed in the display region has an orientation controllable to correspond to the orientation of the display region. The information processing apparatus also includes input means affixed to the information processing apparatus for inputting directional information, where the input means is a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and a designation means for designating a display orientation of the display region. Additionally, the information processing apparatus includes storage means for storing a management table for storing control signals, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and control means for controlling the scrolling of information displayed in the display region by selecting control

signals stored in the management table corresponding to the direction information input by the input means and the display orientation designated by the designation means.

Amended independent Claim 5 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes display means for displaying information in a display region, where the display region has an adjustable orientation, and where the information displayed in the display region has an orientation controllable to correspond to the orientation of the display region. The information processing apparatus also includes input means affixed to the information processing apparatus for inputting directional information, where the input means is a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and a designation means for designating a display orientation of the display region. Additionally, the information processing apparatus includes storage means for storing a management table for storing control signals, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and control means for controlling a focusing operation to a plurality of focusing targets displayed in the display region by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to the directional information input by the input means and the display orientation designated by the designation means

Thus, among its many features, the invention stores control signals in a management table, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and controls either the scrolling or focusing of information displayed in the display region by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to directional information input by a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and to the display orientation.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to provide at least the feature of storing control signals in a management table, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and controlling the scrolling or focusing of information displayed in the display region by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to directional information input by a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and the display orientation. ✕

Sakamoto is seen to disclose a rotatable display having a rectangular display surface, rotatable to either a vertically elongated position or a laterally elongated position. See Sakamoto, Abstract; col. 3, ll. 56 to 64; and Figure 1. As acknowledged in the Office Action however, Sakamoto is not seen to teach changing an operation, such as scrolling or focusing, in accordance with the display direction, based on a user operation of the input means. ✕

Amro is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Sakamoto. Specifically, Amro is seen to describe a computer-controlled display screen, in which a user controls an on-screen cursor by touching the display screen with their finger at any position on the screen, and moving their finger in a direction orthogonal to the screen. Amro, Abstract. ✕
More particularly, by using means to detect "rolling" of a user's finger, the user interface in Amro responds to a finger motion by moving displayed data in a direction corresponding to the direction of the detected rolling. See Amro, Abstract; col. 2, ll. 6 to 15; and Figure 4.

Citing Amro at lines 59 to 67 of column 5, lines 1 to 10 of column 6, and Figure 9, the Office Action alleges that Amro teaches changing an operation corresponding to the indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction, based

on a user operation of the indicator. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the cited text passages and Figure 9 of Amro describe an operation where a user touches the touch screen, rolls their finger through a straight-line vector V_x , then lifts their finger, causing a corresponding motion by the cursor in a direction parallel to vector V_x . The described operation is seen to occur by continuously detecting the position of the user's fingertip, but is not seen to condition the cursor movement upon control information of a management table corresponding to the indication direction, and in particular a management table for making an indication direction of the indicator in the display direction correspond to control information for controlling an operation of the information processing apparatus for the indication apparatus. X

In this regard, since the user operation in Amro is seen to occur independent of the display direction, Amro is not seen to provide for storing control signals in a management table, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and controlling the scrolling or focusing of information displayed in the display region by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to directional information input by a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and the display orientation. X

Neither Robbins nor Ruberry are seen to remedy the deficiencies of Sakamoto. In particular, neither Robbins nor Ruberry are seen to disclose the feature of storing control signals in a management table, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and controlling the scrolling or focusing of information displayed in the display region by selecting control signals stored in the

management table corresponding to directional information input by a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and the display orientation.

As such, even if Sakamoto, Amro, Robbins and/or Ruberry are combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action (assuming for argument's sake that such combination would be permissible), the result would not be seen to teach or suggest at least the feature of storing control signals in a management table, where the management table is indexed by directional information and display orientation, and controlling the scrolling or focusing of information displayed in the display region by selecting control signals stored in the management table corresponding to directional information input by a jog dial switch or a shuttle switch, and the display orientation. ✕

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1 and 5 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, amended independent Claims 10, 14 and 19 are method and computer-readable memory claims which correspond to apparatus Claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, amended independent Claims 10, 14 and 19 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 5.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define additional aspects of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested of the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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